	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/000,088	FUKUTA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kuen S. Lu	2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *December 21, 2005*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1, 3-6, 9-10, 12-15, 18-19, 21-24, 27-28, 30-33, 36-45 and 48-51(renumbered to 1-37)*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

      Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *2/16/2006* .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☒ Other *See Continuation Sheet*.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other: Drawings filed 12/04/2001 are accepted.

DETAILED ACTION

1. After a thorough search and examination of the present application, a telephone
interview conducted February 16, 2006, and in light of the prior art made of record and
Applicant's response of December 21, 2005, Claims 1, 3-6, 9-10, 12-15, 18-19, 21-24,
27-28, 30-33, 36-45 and 48-51 (renumbered to 1-37) are allowed.

Drawings

2. The Drawings filed on December 21, 2001 have been accepted.

Examiner's Amendments

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or
additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37
CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no
later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment, listed below, was given in a telephone
interview with Mr. Skip Gain (Registration Number 55,917) on February 16, 2006. The
interview summary is attached.

Please amend claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-11, 16-17, 19-20, 25-26, 28-29, 34-35, 37-38 and 45-
47 as follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A personal information management apparatus which
electronically manages personal information of a user, comprising:

a personal information database selection unit selecting a personal information

database based on rules from a personal information storage unit including a plurality of

personal information databases respectively storing personal information regarding

potential alternative situations of the same user;

a processing unit processing the personal information database selected by said

personal information database selection unit, such that the personal information can be

read and written; ~~and~~

a memory storing the rules referenced for selecting the appropriate personal information

database, which are set by the same user in advance upon starting a use of the

personal information management apparatus~~.~~;

a clock unit outputting current time data, wherein said rules are defined based on the

time data output by said clock unit;

a personal information nonmatching detection unit detecting a difference in personal

information of predetermined items common to two personal information databases

stored in said personal information storage unit;

a personal information nonmatching notification unit notifying of the difference detected

by said personal information nonmatching detection unit; and

a personal information synchronization unit amending one piece of different personal

information detected by said personal information nonmatching detection unit to match

the other piece.

2. (Currently Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a

~~transmission/reception~~ transmission and reception unit, provided in a network,

transmitting and receiving data to and from an information processing terminal

through the network, wherein said personal information database selection unit

selects the personal information database through the network, or directly selects

the personal information database.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said rules are

defined based on information received by said ~~transmission/reception~~ transmission and

reception unit about access path in the network from the information processing

terminal.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said rules are

defined based on information received by said ~~transmission/reception~~ transmission and

reception unit and designating the information processing terminal.

7. (Currently Cancelled)

8. (Currently Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A personal information managing method which electronically

manages personal information of a user, comprising:

setting rules, for selecting personal information databases, by the same user in advance

upon starting a use of a personal information management apparatus;

retaining the rules in a memory;

selecting a personal information database based on the rules from a personal

information storage unit including a plurality of personal information databases

respectively storing personal information regarding potential alternative situations of the

same user; and

processing the selected personal information database such that the personal

information can be read and written.;

outputting current time data, wherein the rules are defined based on the output time

data;

detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two

personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit;

notifying of the detected difference;

detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two

personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit; and

amending one piece of the detected different personal information to match the other

piece.

11. (Currently Cancelled)

16. (Currently Cancelled)

17. (Currently Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a personal

information management program used to direct a computer for electronically managing

personal information of a user, by:

setting rules, for selecting personal information databases, by the same user in advance

upon starting a use of a personal information management apparatus;

retaining the rules in a memory;

selecting a personal information database based on the rules from a personal

information storage unit including a plurality of personal information databases

respectively storing personal information about different situations of the same user;

and

processing the selected personal information database such that the personal

information can be read and written-;

outputting current time data, wherein said rules are defined based on the output time

data;

detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two

personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit,

wherein said detected difference is notified of; and

amending one piece of the detected different personal information to match the other

piece.

20. (Currently Cancelled)

25. (Currently Cancelled)

26. (Currently Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A personal information management program used to direct a

computer for electronically managing personal information of a user by:

setting rules, for selecting personal information databases, by the same user in advance

upon starting a use of a personal information management apparatus;

retaining the rules in a memory;

selecting a personal information database based on the rules from a personal

information storage unit including a plurality of personal information databases

respectively storing personal information regarding potential alternative situations of the

same user; and

processing the selected personal information database such that the personal

information can be read and written.;

outputting current time data, wherein said rules are defined based on the output time

data;

detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two

personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit,

wherein said detected difference is notified of; and

amending one piece of the detected different personal information to match the other

piece.

29. (Currently Cancelled)

34. (Currently Cancelled)

35. (Currently Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A personal information management apparatus which

electronically manages personal information of a user, comprising:

setting means for setting rules for selecting personal information databases by the same

user in advance upon starting a use of a personal information management apparatus

and storing the set rules;

personal information database selection means for selecting a personal information

database based on the rules from personal information storage means including a

plurality of personal information databases respectively storing personal information

regarding potential alternative situations of the same user; and

processing means for processing the personal information database selected by said

personal information database selection means such that the personal information can

be read and written.;

outputting means for outputting current time data, wherein said rules are defined based

on the output time data;

detecting means for detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined

items common to two personal information databases stored in said personal

information storage unit, wherein said detected difference is notified of; and

amending means for amending one piece of the detected different personal information

to match the other piece.

38. (Currently Amended) A personal information managing method which electronically

manages personal information of a user, comprising:

setting rules used in selecting one of a plurality of personal information databases, the

rules based on potential alternative situations of the same user; and

selecting the one of the plurality of personal information databases based on the set

rules upon starting the computer.;

outputting current time data, wherein said rules are defined based on the output time

data;

detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two

personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit,

wherein said detected difference is notified of; and

amending one piece of the detected different personal information to match the other

piece.

45. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a data processing system, comprising:

receiving personal information from a user;

storing the user's personal information;

receiving a communication from the user comprising a request to access the user's

stored personal information;

detecting a characteristic of the time of the communication and the communication that

is independent of the request to access the user's stored personal information; and

limiting the user's access to the user's stored personal information according to the

detected characteristic.;

outputting current time data, wherein said rules are defined based on the output time

data;

detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two

personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit,

wherein said detected difference is notified of; and

amending one piece of the detected different personal information to match the other

piece.

46. (Currently Cancelled)

47. (Currently Cancelled)

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In the Examiner's Office Action for non-Final Rejection of July 21, 2005, 35 U.S.C. §

102 rejections was based on Zhou (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0157014 A1,

"PRIVACY CONTROL SYSTEM FOR PERSONAL INFORMATION CARD SYSTEM

AND METHOD THEREOF", filed on April 18, 2001) and 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections was

based on Zhou and further in view of Huang et al. (U.S. Patent 5,966,714, "METHOD

AND APPARATUS FOR SCALING LARGE ELECTRONIC MAIL DATABASES FOR

DEVICE WITH LIMITED STORAGE", issued on October 12, 1999, hereafter "Huang").

Concerning independent claims 1, 10, 19, 28 and 37-38, Applicant argued that Zhou

does not teach setting rules by the same user and selecting database storing

information regarding potential alternative situations of the same user.

Concerning 35 U.S.C. § 103, rejections of dependent claims 7-9, 16-18, 25-27 and

34-36, Applicant also argued that Huang discloses nothing to suggest modifying Zhou

reference to overcome deficiencies as disclosed in the claim elements.

Based on the Applicant's Amendments, filed on December 21, 2005 and a telephone

interview conducted on February 16, 2006 authorizing the Examiner's amendment as

previously described, the Application clearly distinguishes from prior art.

Further based on an update search conducted, the claims filed on December 21,

2005 and amended by the Examiner's Amendments as described above, is hereby

considered and accepted.

The prior art in domains (EAST, NPL-ACM, Google, NPL-IEEE) searches have been

updated. The prior art searched and investigated in domains (EAST, NPL-ACM,

Google, NPL-IEEE) does not fairly teach or suggest either one of the following claimed

subject matters as combined by the following elements or similar limitations:

"setting rules used in selecting one of a plurality of personal information databases, the

rules based on potential alternative situations of the same user;

selecting the one of the plurality of personal information databases based on the set

rules upon starting the computer;

outputting current time data, wherein said rules are defined based on the output time

data;

detecting a difference in personal information of predetermined items common to two

personal information databases stored in said personal information storage unit,

wherein said detected difference is notified of; and

amending one piece of the detected different personal information to match the other

piece" in each of the independent claims 1, 10, 19, 28, 37-38 and 45, respectively.

Claim(s) in the groups (3-6, 9 and 39), (12-15, 18 and 40), (21-24, 27 and 41), (30-

33, 36 and 42), (43), (44) and (48-51), are dependent on the Claims 1, 10, 19, 28, 37,

38 and 45, respectively, and also distinct from the prior art for the same reason.

After a search and a thorough examination of the present Application and in light of

the prior arts, Claims 1, 3-6, 9-10, 12-15, 18-19, 21-24, 27-28, 30-33, 36-45 and 48-51

(renumbered to 1-37) are allowed.

Conclusions

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than

the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on

Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

Examiner should be directed to Kuen S. Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-

4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone pre unsuccessful, the examiner's

Supervisor, Jean R. Homere, Esq. can be reached on (571) 272-3780. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-

273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for Page 13

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact he Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kuen S. Lu,

Patent Examiner,

February 21, 2006